

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 37 without my signature.

While I am very sympathetic towards victims who were involuntarily sent to Mexico as a result of repatriation efforts within California between 1929 and 1944, these individuals were able to pursue legal action within a fixed period of time. The purpose of the statute of limitation is to provide protection to defendants from antiquated claims. Such older claims are difficult to litigate against due to a loss of witnesses, evidence, and other factors.

Additionally, private litigation of potentially thousands of claims against the state, could burden the courts, result in increased costs to the state and local governments, and possibly require a settlement account for any successful claim. If the Legislature should decide, as a matter of public policy, to provide compensation, a reparations fund should be created to expedite the processing of these claims. This would be an efficient and less expensive method for both the taxpayers and the plaintiffs.

Once legislation creating this policy is enacted, it can be considered along with all other priorities and in the context of the State's fiscal condition at that time.

For these reasons I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger